

**Town of Williamsport
Mayor & Council Minutes
June 8, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Williamsport Mayor and Council was held on June 8, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Williamsport Town Hall.

In attendance were:

Mayor James G. McCleaf II
Assistant Mayor Tony Drury
Council member Tearza Knode
Council member Joan Knode
Council member Timothy Fraker
Council member James Kalbfleisch
Town Attorney Edward Kuczynski

Also Present – Donnie Stotelmyer, Town Clerk

Mayor James McCleaf II called the meeting to order.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II
asked all in attendance to stand for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilman Fraker to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2009 Regular Meeting, the minutes of the May 11, 2009 Executive Session and the minutes of the June 1, 2009 Workshop, seconded by Assistant Mayor Drury, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Financial Reports

Donnie Stotelmyer gave the Treasurers Report. A motion was made by Councilman Kalbfleisch, seconded by Councilwoman Jones to accept the Treasurer's Report, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Guests

Mayor James G. McCleaf II introduced the MML Essay Winner in the "If I Were Mayor" Contest for District 8 in Washington County, Isaac Schlotterbeck of Williamsport Elementary School. Also present were finalists: Barbara Fitzsimmons, Elizabeth Mackley, Jake Arnone, and Cierra Beaver, all of Williamsport Elementary School. Each student read their essays that were submitted to the MML. Mayor James G. McCleaf presented District 8 winner Isaac Schlotterbeck with a plaque and certificates to the other finalists. Mayor McCleaf suggested to the Council that the idea for a Fun Fair that Isaac Schlotterbeck had used in his essay be enacted and planned for next year in the Byron Memorial Park. Mayor McCleaf then asked Isaac and his parents to be part of the Committee to plan this event.

Councilwoman J. Knode introduced Mary Jane Spickler and Rose Marie Suder representing Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and thanked them for coordinating improvements to Doubleday Hill. Councilwoman J. Knode informed the Mayor and Council that a 6-foot bench was installed, and also flower filled planters. Also a new sign was furnished by Councilman Fraker. The project was funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II introduced Mr. Earle Pereschuk, town resident, who resides on 129 E. Sunset Ave. Mr. Pereschuk addressed the Mayor and Council concerning the status of the U.S. Cellular Project. He was informed that the Town Attorney had sent a letter to U.S. Cellular Attorneys but no response had been received at this time. He then asked if the problem of trash being dumped in Williamsport from neighboring communities was being addressed. He was informed that the Town was handling it but that the cooperation of the townspeople was needed in order to address this problem adequately. A suggestion was made that this may be something that needs to be placed in the Town newsletter. Mr. Pereschuk then asked if an excessive amount of tickets were being voided in the Town. Donnie Stotemyer, Town Clerk, informed that there were very few tickets being voided in the Town and those that were had been discussed with Councilman Jones prior to them being voided.

Correspondence

Mayor James G. McCleaf II, read a thank you card from the Family of Benjamin Burger who was recently killed in an automobile accident.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II read a letter from the Williamsport High School Scholarship Selection Committee. The Committee has named Allaire R. Bartel as the award winner of the Ruby M. Seymour Scholarship Award for 2009.

Reports

Mayor James G. McCleaf II gave the Sheriffs report for May 2009.

Mr. Jerry Knode gave the History and Museum report. He informed the Mayor and Council that the Museum is meeting this Thursday June 11, 2009 at 7:00p.m. at the Museum to plan for the upcoming USO Dance. This Monday, June 15, 2009 at 7:00p.m. is the regular Museum meeting also to be held at the Museum. Mr. Knode also reported that Mr. Matthew Dodd would be at the Williamsport Town Museum on Sunday, June 28, 2009 to talk about the Revolutionary War.

Council Reports

Councilman Kalbfleisch reported that per the Public Service Commission Order #9166 stating that beginning June 2009 all residential customers will be receiving a credit on their bill. The credit will be a flat rate (per customer) and will need to be tracked separately from other components of the bill. There are no criteria other than being a residential customer in order to receive the credit. The credit will be an ongoing line item but beginning with the August 2009 bill the credit amount will change quarterly. The credit for June & July 2009 has been set at \$1.50 per residential bill. The description of the credit must be "RGGI Rate Credit" on the June and August 2009 bills and quarterly thereafter an informational message describing the credit must appear on the bill, the text of this message follows: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Rate Credit (RGGI Rate Credit) is administered by the Maryland Public Service Commission and is provided to residential customers on a dollar per customer basis with funds distributed from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

Councilwoman J. Knode reported that Lesley Henrickson of the Washington County Ag Center is coordinating a Farmers Market to be held on the 1st Thursday of July at the Springfield Barn from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00p.m. She also reminded the Mayor and Council about the Flag Retirement Ceremony which will be held at the Williamsport Red Men Tribe #84 grounds this Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 2:00p.m. The Williamsport Community Band will play music prior to this event beginning at 1:00p.m. Councilwoman J.

Knodel then informed the Mayor and Council that 6 park benches had been placed along Conococheague St. and that she was currently working with Gini Baylor of West Rec. on getting bike racks for the Town. She also thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers at the recent passing of her Mother-in-law.

Councilman Fraker reported that the L. Beard Miller Pool opened on Saturday, May 23, 2009 as scheduled. The concession stand was stocked by Johnnie's, Pepsi, and Berliner. The Pool was compliant with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. The Pool passed its inspection with the State of Maryland Health Dept. The Pool Stabilization project in the pump room has been completed and everything is operational. The Town of Williamsport is working with the State of Maryland Health Department to bring the Baby Pool into compliance with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. He also reported that the sign ups for swimming lessons was up compared to last year.

Councilwoman T. Knodel reported that the Trails Path Project for Byron Memorial Park is currently being worked on with Thrasher Engineering. She also informed the Mayor and Council that the Summer Concert Series to be held at the Byron Memorial Park Bandshell is coming along great. Councilwoman Knodel is attempting to schedule concerts for Sundays during the summer. The Fourth of July celebration is also coming along well. A Pancake Breakfast will be held at 7:00a.m. in the Park followed by a Pit Beef and Fries lunch beginning at 11:00a.m. sponsored by the Williamsport Fire Company and Rehoboth United Methodist Church and Williamsport Rotary. Williamsport Rotary is selling popcorn and purple cow tickets. Various bands will be playing throughout the afternoon. The Williamsport United Methodist Church will be sponsoring the First Annual watermelon eating contest in the park. The Community Band will be playing in the park at 7:45p.m. Councilwoman T. Knodel is organizing an event to assemble USO care packages for the troops to be held at the Community Bldg on the 4th of July. She is also considering a "Patriotic Pooch" contest and also a "Patriotic Baby" contest. She will inform the Mayor and Council on her progress with organizing these events.

Assistant Mayor Drury reported that the next scheduled Merchants Meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2009 at 6:00p.m. at the Williamsport Town Hall. He also informed the Mayor and Council that Mr. Donnie Bryant will be opening a computer repair store in Jewell's old building. Assistant Mayor Drury also informed the Mayor and Council that a Bike Nite is scheduled for July 18, 2009 in the Town of Williamsport. He also reminded the Mayor and Council about the Cycling Race which is scheduled for June 21, 2009. Anyone needed information on this may contact Scot Gordon at the River City Cycles.

Mayors Report

Mayor James McCleaf II suggested that due to the Fourth of July Holiday the July Workshop be cancelled. The council were all in agreement.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II presented to the Council a list of upcoming meetings:

- 1) Tuesday June 9, 2009 at 4:00p.m. meeting with Les Curry concerning Conococheague Little League
- 2) Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 3:00p.m. meeting with Craig Osborne concerning Riverview Cemetery
- 3) Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 3:00p.m. meeting with Scott Gardner concerning Health Insurance
- 4) Friday, June 12, 2009 at 11:00a.m. meeting with Mike Sparks concerning Economic Development for Downtown Williamsport.
- 5) Pre-Audit meeting with Draper & McGinley – June 15, 16, & 17
- 6) June 16, 2009 at 2:00p.m. meeting with Thrasher Engineering – Pre-Construction Meeting for Sewer Project.

All meetings will be held at the Williamsport Town Hall.

Unfinished Business

Mayor James G. McCleaf II reviewed with the Council that the Inflow and Infiltration Reduction Project #1 needed to be awarded to the low bidder. Mayor McCleaf explained that the Town of Williamsport should award the contract to Fayetteville contractor in the amount of \$175,822.79. After discussion was held concerning the MDE Inflow and Infiltration Project #1, a motion was made by Assistant Mayor Drury to award the Town of Williamsport's Inflow & Infiltration Reduction Project #1, thrasher engineering project #103-0201064, MDE # BR-CR22.02 to Fayetteville Contractors in the amount of \$175,822.79, seconded by Councilman Kalbfleisch, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II held discussion concerning the proposed 7% rate increase on the Water/Sewer rates for the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 for the Town of Williamsport. Assistant Mayor Drury made a motion to introduce the proposal to increase the Water/Sewer rates for the Town of Williamsport for fiscal year 2009/2010 by 7%, seconded by Councilwoman J. Knode, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II reviewed the proposed Fiscal Budget for the Town of Williamsport for 2010. The Council held discussion on the proposed budget. A motion was made by Councilman Fraker, to adopt the proposed Budget for FY 2010 as presented for the Town of Williamsport, seconded by Councilwoman T. Knode, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II reviewed a proposal to be advertised in the local newspaper for bids for the proposed Water & Sprinkler System for the Springfield Barn. The proposal was submitted by Town Attorney Ed Kuczynski. The proposal submitted is for a design and installation of a water sprinkler system. The design and installation of the sprinkler system will comply with all building codes, fire codes and any other applicable codes, rules and regulations pertaining to sprinkler systems for this type of structure and the intended uses by the public for various functions. All proposals should be submitted in writing and delivered to the Williamsport Town Hall, 2 north Conococheague St., Williamsport, MD, 21795. All proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00p.m. on June 24, 2009. A motion was made by Councilwoman J. Knode, seconded by Assistant Mayor Drury to place the proposed advertisement in the local newspaper, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II reviewed a proposal to be advertised in the local newspaper for request of proposals for Construction Management Services for DNR Boat Ramp Project at River Bottom Park. The request for proposals was submitted by Town Attorney, Ed Kuczynski. The Town of Williamsport is requesting proposals from qualified engineers and other qualified firms to provide the following services in connection with the design and construction of a boat ramp and associated features along the Potomac River in Williamsport Maryland: Provide Construction Management Services in connection with the design and construction of improvements and for replacement of existing boat ramps along the Potomac River in Williamsport, MD. This proposal is seeking Construction Management Services which will include working with the Town of Williamsport and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to develop an acceptable scope and bid package for the proposed project. The proposal should also include services in connection with the development and drafting of the necessary public advertisements of bid opening for the award process. All proposals must be submitted no later than 4:00p.m. on June 24, 2009. A motion was made by Councilwoman T. Knode, seconded by Assistant Mayor Drury to place the proposed advertisement in the local newspaper, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

New Business

Donnie Stotemyer, Town Clerk, read a letter from Town of Williamsport resident Mrs. Paula A Blenard of 147 n Artizan St. Mrs. Blenard stated in her letter that the Town of Williamsport installed a new electric meter at her residence on February 27, 2009. She also stated that she had been in contact with the Town

concerning her astronomical electric bills. Mrs. Blenard stated that in 30 days from 11/17/08 to 12/17/08 her kwh usage was 4654 or an average of 155.13 kwh per day. The next month her bill was from 12/17/08 to 1/16/09 and her kwh usage was 5199 or an average of 173.30 kwh per day. The next month her bill went from 1/16/09 to 2/17/09 her kwh usage was 4673 or an average of 146.03 kwh per day in a 32 day time frame. Mrs. Blenard states that the last bill 9 days on it with the old meter and 25 days with the new meter and the kwh usage was 1699. The usage on the new meter was 750 kwh from the old meter and 949 from the new. So this equates to an average kwh usage of 104.44 on the old meter and 30 on the new. Mrs. Blenard also submitted a chart that she recorded the meter reading every day at the same time of day. She also recorded the high and low temperature for that day and the total kwh usage. For the month of March 2009 her average daily usage was 29.96 for a 31 day period. Donnie Stotelmyer explained to the Mayor and Council that after speaking with Mr. & Mrs. Blenard on several occasions that the Town of Williamsport had conducted re-reads on their residence as well as having their electric meter tested by Gary Little of the City of Hagerstown. All re-reads and meter tests were normal. Mr. Stotelmyer also explained to the Blenard's on several occasions that per the Public Service Commission the Town of Williamsport is only required to do re-reads on billing errors and at the request of the utility customer. He also stated that the Town is also required to test the customers electric meter. In both cases the re-reads were correct and Mrs. Blenard's electrical meter test was also normal. Mr. Stotelmyer provided documentation from Gary Little of the Electric Dept. in the City of Hagerstown showing that Mrs. Blenard's electric meter test was validated and tested normal. The Mayor and Council held discussion on this matter. Mayor McCleaf felt that the Town Employees had done everything within their power to accommodate the Blenards and that no further action should be taken on this matter.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II reviewed a correspondence from Blackwell2, LLC who owns property at 163 N. Conococheague St. in Williamsport. This concerned a recent water bill in the amount of \$6,228.35 which is about 4 times greater than their previous water bills. Mr. Bowen, managing member of Blackwell2 LLC explained that the property had been rehabbed in mid 2008 in which new plumbing was by D.C. Hutzler Plumbing and Heating. In early February Blackwell2, LLC received calls concerning low water pressure. The property manager LaVerne Chappel went to the property to investigate the low water pressure issue. He discovered that a pipe in the basement had burst and had dumped many thousands of gallons of water into the basement over a period of several days. D.C. Hutzler plumbing and heating attest to the service call to make the necessary repairs. Mr. Bowen is requesting that the Town of Williamsport consider and adjust the water bill to reflect normal usage. The Mayor and Council discussed the issue with the water bill concerning the property located at 163 N. Conococheague St. and it was agreed that the Sewer charges should be adjusted.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II held discussion with the Council on a letter received from Kinder Haven Child Care Center a ministry of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 35 W. Potomac St. in Williamsport. The Child Care Center is requesting the use of a Pavilion in Byron memorial Park starting on May 19, 2009 until October 2009. A motion was made by Councilman Fraker to allow Kinder haven Child Care Center use of a Pavilion at Byron Memorial Park at no charge, seconded by Councilwoman J. Knode, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Mayor James G. McCleaf II held discussion on a letter received from the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park requesting that the fee be waived for the use of the Williamsport Community Building located in Byron Memorial Park. The Park has reserved the use of the Community Building on June 30, 2009 to conduct a public scoping meeting related to the repairs of the Historic Towpath in the Big Slackwater Area of the park. The meeting is the first step of the environmental compliance process to prepare the environmental assessment document for this project. A motion was made by Councilwoman T. Knode to allow the National Park Service to use the Community Building at the Byron Memorial Park on June 30, 2009 at no charge, seconded by Assistant Mayor Drury, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Citizen Participation

Town of Williamsport resident, Junior Brown questioned the Mayor and Council about a camper parked at Mr. Hibbards. He was informed that Mr. Grimm, Zoning Administrator was looking into this matter. He will review the Town Ordinances concerning this matter and send a letter to Mr. Hibbard of 4 Commerce St., Williamport, MD. Mr. Brown also questioned the Mayor and Council concerning the water & sewer fees that could be waived with pending bill issues, as in the case of Blackwell2, LLC.

Town of Williamsport resident, Earle Pereschuk questioned the Mayor and Council concerning the Blackwell2, LLC matter as to how the water/sewer rates should be adjusted.

Town of Williamsport resident, Jay Grimes questioned the Mayor and Council concerning people from WV dropping their trash off in the Town of Williamsport. Residents have to attempt to get a Tag Number or notify Town Hall with the location where trash has been dropped off.

Town of Williamsport resident, Chris Grimes questioned the Mayor and Council about the Baby Pool being closed, did Rehoboth have issues concerning this matter? She also asked that her name be removed from the contact list for Berliners Ice Cream.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Kalbfleisch, seconded by Councilwoman T. Knode, with all voting in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnie Stotlemeyer
Town Clerk
Town of Williamsport